Strahlman, Dr. L. 11-2-42
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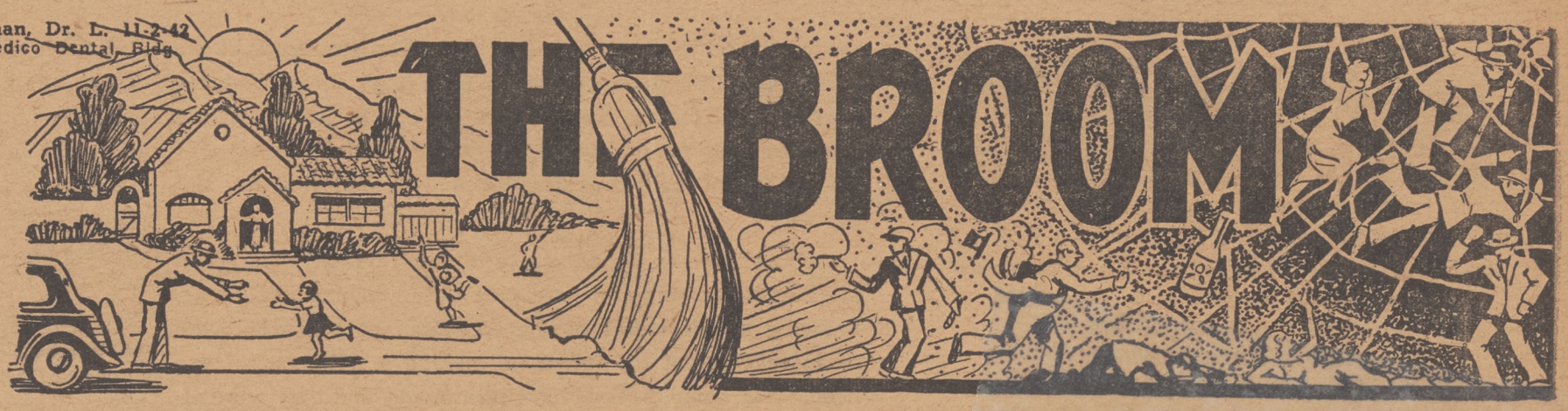
"In hoc signo vinces."



VOLUME XIII. No. 11. SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1942. $2.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS

Government A Big Utility

Renders a Service To Its Citizens For Which It Should Collect, the Same As Other Utilities Collect For Services Rendered For Services Rendered Their Patrons

A number of parties interested in the matter have favored Cause and Effect with copies of a proposed amendment to the constitution (H. J. Res. 338) introduced by Congressman Jerry Voorhis of California, which reads as follows:

Each person shall have equal right to use the earth and to enjoy the full product of his labor. To secure these rights, Congress shall have power to enact legislation levying taxes upon socially created land values, to provide for the collection of such taxes in cooperation with local government authorities, to apportion the revenue derived from such taxes among local, State and Federal government and to require the reduction or removal of taxes on improvements on land.

The object of this amendment is, of course, to extend the taxing power of the government to include so-called "land values". Although advocated for over 60 years, the idea of taxing "land values" has made little progress and perhaps isn't as well understood or hasn't as many adherents as it had 60 years ago. The thing proponents of "land value" taxation have in mind is the taking by government of economic rent for revenue and abolition of taxes. This principle is fundamentally sound and were it in practice would comply with the essence of the proposed amendment and result in the establishment of permanent peace, freedom and prosperity. However just and feasible is the taking of rent for revenue, the reason the principle has made so little progress is that its advocates have failed to sense the true significance of rent. Had they done so they could readily have united their forces, presented a solid front to opponents of the principle and years ago brought its adoption, together with the blessings that would naturally flow from such a course. Not having a clear conception of what it is that gives rise to rent, those who have advocated its collection by government and the abolition of taxes have been unable to concentrate on a plan of action, therefore no progress has been made toward gaining the highly desirable end they seek. In striving for the adoption of the proposed amendment the zealous advocates of a better social order can perform no greater service in behalf of their just cause than to inform themselves as to the progress that has been made in economic science the past few years. Knowledge, not the adoption of a constitutional amendment, is the highway leading to a better social order.

A brief explanation of the functions of government will assist in an understanding of what is hoped to be accomplished by the adoptoin of the Voorhis amendment.

The sole intent and purpose of government is to do for its citizens things they cannot do for themselves. Thus it is government provides and makes available services and advantages, including maintenance of law and order, national defense highways, schools, postal service, fire, police and health departments and all other activities of government. The worth of these services is reflected in the rental value of locations where they are used. This value is determind by the market and is just what users are willing to pay for government services at a given location. Rent, therefore, is payment for services and advantages provided and made available by government.

The above services—law and order, highways, postal, police, fire and health—are known as direct government services, in addition to which government provides an indirect service by means of chartering corporations which furnish utility services, such as transportation, communication and power.

Stripped of all frills and furbelows, government is just a huge utility, the function of which is to provide services to its citizens, the same as an electric or gas utility furnishes certain types of services to their patrons. Government is the parent utility, transportation, communication and power utilities being subsidiary concerns. Patrons of subsidiary concerns choose for themselves the amount of service they desire to use and pay accordingly. Where little service is used, periodical payments are small; where large amounts of services are used, payments are correspondingly greater. It is the same with government—citizens choose for themselves the amount of service they wish to use, for which they pay rent in accordance with the rate for government services in their locality. When little service is desired, users locate in sparsely populated districts where rent is low, and when greater amounts are desired, users select more populous areas where rent is high. Whether the rate for government service is low or high, rent is always a voluntary payment, hence no difficulties are encountered in its collection.

Aside from the value of the materials from which they are constructed, what is it that gives value to a gas range, an electric motor or a vacuum sweeper? It is the gas and electric service that makes possible their utilization.

What is it that gives rental value to a location in either urban or suburban areas? It is government services.

If a patron of a gas or electric utility fails to pay for the gas or electricity used, the services are discontinued and his range. motors and other appliances are rendered useless.

Were government to charge the full market rate for its services, should a user fail to pay his rent, the service would be discontinued, rendering his location useless for all practical purposes. However, since rent is a voluntary payment, there would be slight likelihood of resort to this procedure, occupancy of a given location being voluntary and dependent on payment (rent) for srevices rendered.

When it is understood just what rent is—payment for services rendered by government—the adoption of an amendment to the constitution for the purpose of gathering this fund into the public treasury would seem a crude, cumbersome and unnecessarily tedious method of attaining this end when the same goal can be gained through the mere adoption by congress of a simple resolution directing the internal revenue department to proceed with the collection of payment (rent) for service srendered.

(Continued on page Four)

"Sick and Tired"

"If I understand the temper of the people of this country," says Representative Cox of Georgia, "then I know that they are sick and tired of government by bureaucracy."

This Dixie member of Congress and a sound Democrat, has hit the line for a gain of nineteen yards and maybe 20. Along with others on Capitol Hill, he probably has received a lot of punch from letters from the folks back home. Also, he is squinting back at the recent election results which displayed not a little temper of some kind.

Evidently the House judiciary committee, a group of considerable power, has had a similiar inspiration about the current feelings of the people. For it has dusted off and approved the Walter-Logan bill which could accomplish something quite decisive about the acts of that same bureaucracy of which the people are sick and tired. This measure, advanced several years ago and then shunted aside, would empower the federal courts to review the quasi-judicial rulings, orders and "directives" of the multitudinous brueaus with which Washington and this broad land is infested.

. The Georgia spokesman says that Congress needs to "recapture, reclaim and exercise in its constitutional rights all the powers that have been filched from it" by the bureaucratic administration of laws in ways that Congress never suspected would be used.

This is all to the good, but the skirts of Congress itself are far from clear. In its submissive, acquiescent attitude over the last ten years it has, with few exceptions, handed over for bureaucratic administration whatever broad grants of authority might have been requested. Now this business of boomeranging on Congress itself. Congress

(Continued on page Four)

THE BROOM

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Roy O. Akers, Managing Editor and Publisher

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DESPOILING OUR DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE

If the American people do not watch their step, they will have "protested too little and too late" against the despoiling of our "democratic way of life" in the United States of America.

For the past ten years encroachments have been gradually over-shadowing the "rights" (not privileges) of the American citizen, like creeping paralysis. It started with the alphabetical jumble of the New Deal administration. One vigorous protest downed the NRA, and the AAA got a kick in the pants, but it wasn't licked. The PWA survived, only just last week being abolished, despite the reported shortage of manpower on the farms and in all industrial and war plants. The proprieties of these abreviations had some good features, in that many a needy person did receive aid thereby, but beneficial and sufficient aid could have been given in a more American way, eliminating bad features envolved which have been encountered in them, which also resulted in becoming vote-getting devices, and further infringements upon free men's rights, but as stated, on account of their benificent side, little or no effective protest was made aganist them.

The bank holiday took away another right, in that it denied by decree, the right to own or hold gold, except in small articles of jewelry. I have never believed that the so-called necessity of that "bank holiday" was justified—but that the greater majority of the small banks over the country that were forced to the wall at that time, could and would have used their pioneering experience, judgment, perseverance, ingenuity and individual ability to have worked out their own local problems to the far greater advantage of the community's depositors. Then booze came back with the blessing of the New Deal Administration. Not that I favored prohibition in the first place, but by the bringing back booze it has come back with its bad features multiplied many fold. The old saloon was gradually killing itself. If booze hadn't came back, however, we wouldn't have the large percentage of women patrons in these "dives" as there are today; there wouldn't have been the disastrous calamity in Boston the other day. How does this affect the rights of the American citizen you may say. Well it plays a mighty strong part in that it befogs the mind to that extent that it has not the reasoning faculty to protest other infringements.—Far fetched? Well study the situation a little and you may not say so.

From there on thru the late thirties—limited emergency after limited emergency—creeping ever creeping, entwining, knawing at the **rights** of the American people, who were to a great extent too intent on making a livlihood to take heed. Yes, some protests have been made, and they were effective to some degree—but the creeping paralysis has not been checked. The rights of free speech, free press, free enterprise are being constantly threatened, under the guise of war necessity. Free enterprise is getting its dose of strictnine by price ceilings which are meaningless. The only people they benefit are the great corps of bureaucratic employees who could perhaps be quite useful on the firing lines. My reason for saying that price ceilings are meaningless is because it does not do the job, that of squelshing of so-called inflation. Anyway during so-called inflationary periods we have good times, so let 'er inflate, we do not have good times during de-flationary times, that is certain. But this predicament can and has been before, controlled by the supply and demand of commodities and American ingenuity and free enterprise. Just a little argument on the price ceiling before we pass on to the next phase of creeping parlysis. How has price ceiling held down living costs? it hasn't and can't unless there is a complete communistic set-up all along the line from and including every producer, farmer, worker, consumer, article, enterprise and subject. For if the farmer is permitted to get a little more for his produce, which he is now entitled to and undoubtedly will be allowed to under the new parity bill, then the consumer merchant must raise his prices, not only on food stuffs but on other articles of merchandise, including clothing, etc. Then there must be a re-ajustment of "price-ceilings" throughout the structure—then the worker must get higher wages to be able to pay more for living costs and then in turn the farmer, the manufacturer, the merchant and all who hire labor must get more, again, for their wares and produce—and so round and round you go. Let "supply and demand" take over and if you please "survival of the fittest" prevail, which can easily be termed good old American pioneering, individualistic ingenuity, and we'll continue to live and survive prosperously, individually and as a free democracy for many more '150 year' periods.

And now there is gas rationing, or rather milage rationing. The matter of rubber conservation in this country is undoubtly quite necessary to watch closely, but the creation of another government bureau to try to occomplish it is in my opinion quite un-necessary, it only infringed again on another American right, that of ownership of personal property. Yes, it may be a small infringement—but take all the small infringements and add them together, and it won't take long to make it 100%. The average American was watching the use and guarding that use of his tires, zealously. Those who were "burning up the road as usual" it would be far better for all concerned the sooner they were without tires. Those who need tires under the new set-up can get them, at least that is what is claimed if you have not been reported for infractions of the traffic code—well the same could and did apply before the rationing; so what? Just more paralysis, and this one carries the "gestapo" squad with it. Yes, these snoopers are going to hang around the gas stations, to see that you have written the license plate number on every coupon you give the service station attendant.

And did we hear some years back that the "lame duck" session of Congress was killed? Well that duck isn't dead, he's just crippled a little more—but still going fairly strong! Yup—he is being used now in an attempt to let down the immigration bars to our country, to let more and more riff-raff in to further un-Americanize America.

(Continued on page Three)

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LONG LIFE

While the big scientists and the big doctors die off between the ages of 40 to 60, the people who believe in the virtues of Nature and right living are enjoying life and health at the ages of 80 to 100.

The difference is this Scientists and doctors deny the existence of God, of a Life Principle, and regard Nature as a blundering force that does what she does because she can't do anything else.

To make matters worse, what Nature does is usually done wrong, and must be corrected by doctors and scientists.

So when folks get sick, it is because Nature has made another blunder, and the doctors must rush in and save the patient from Nature's blundering work.

This foolish philosophy gave birth to the more foolish practice of vaccination and inoculation, called "preventive medicine", as a further means to "protect" people from the effects of Nature's blundering work.

People who read this will think we are talking thru our hat because they are so dumb that they believe in doctors who do such silly things.

We have just read a letter written by a woman in her 91st year, who walks a mile every day, sleeps out doors in the fresh air, and eats only vegetables and fruit. She writes:

"I began sleeping out doors in 1880. I have always been a good walker and still walk about a mile a day. I eat all vegetables and fruits, and sleep from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m."—In Daily Oklahoman, 9-3-'42,p.8.

While the case of every person of extra long life gives the lie to the teachings of the medical world and the practice of medical doctors, yet the multitude goes right on in the same old rut of putting faith in doctors who die young of common complaints. —"How To Live", Nov., 1942.

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DESPOILING OUR DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE

(Continued from page One)

And one of the latest paralytic strokes threatened is the use of rationed spending money.

Now the supposed object of all this, especially the happenings in the recent periods, is to aid the war effort, the keeping down of inflation, which should be controlled at the source, mainly cost-plus, tax-eating, production slowing contracts, if its going to be controlled, and the more and more buying of bonds, which in its intent is all very fine but we are afraid it is proving more of a stumbling block to the real and sincere prosecution of the war, and the ultimate, successful conclusion of this war and just peace for free men every where. It points more and more to the possibility of sinister minds taking advantage of a situation affecting us from without by the attacking our free American individualism from within our borders.

Let us not be too late or have too little individual alertness to be ever on guard against further encroachment upon these rights as free men and free women. Let us not put forth too little or be too late with protests when and wherever we sense any threat to the rights of free men and women, for after all this war will be aimless and futile if we win every battle and are utlimately victorious, **which we must be,** if we enslave mankind in the process.

Some of this procedure may be necessary to an U. S. victory, but then there is this angle to it too, the more nonsensical shenanigans the American people stand for from the bureaucrats, the more they will be expected to stand for,— and a big whale of a lot of it **is** pure shenanigans!

I do not mean by all this summing up that we as Americans must not undergo hardships willingly, God knows we of today in this country do not know what hardships are compared with what our parents in many cases, and our forefathers went through, but we must, as individuals and as a nation, be ever on our guard that we do not get an over-dose of curing world ills, and thereby complete the paralytic stroke that may forever knock the United States of America out as a nation that has always been and always should be emblematic of freedom for all mankind in all its meanings.

What gain man if he possess all the material wealth in the world if he loses his own soul in the acquisition?

A CORRECTION

In our editorial of last week on "Bureaucracy Slowing War Effort", in the paragraph referring to the suggestion of Babson, the word should have been "could" instead of "couldn't", reading as follows: "As a matter of fact, as Babson, the columnist, suggests about "Labor Unions" the board **could** very well be suspended for the duration."

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democracy

By Charles H. Ingersoll
(Of Dollar Watch Fame)

NEW YORK (Radiocast)—

The indictment of the great institution of learning and the press, after this fashion, cannot be sustained without having a court with its laws and functionaries. I have no illusions as to that. But there is an appeal from **every court** and I am resorting to this fourth estate. In order to avoid revolution, I am **resorting to its logic,** which is to acknowledge no authority in the violation of democracy, property, ownership, justice, science, common knowledge, and common sense. And I maintain that the postulates or 'counts in this true bill' cannot be successfully and reasonably disputed **using these yardsticks** I have just mentioned.

In other words, the defense of Capitalism is not dependent on opinion, speculation, or broad-minded vagaries. It depends on science, and scinece is an exact interpretation (by reason and common sense) of nature and her laws.

So, when the people and their leaders do wake up, they will very quickly emerge from the present chaos where all law is denied and colleges and other 'authorities' join in the muddle of guess work.

New York City has been called the most socialistic city in the world. And **maybe it is!** And maybe its socialism is so 'ISMATIC' as the Karl Marx kind.

Even with its corrupt record of politics, including Tammany, Boss Tweed, Jackey Sharp, et al, and in the far heavier financial dosage of reform liberal progressive communistic, New Deal, Fusion, LaGuardiaISM, 'little Old New York' may still be ahead of the game, in the cost and result of its investment of social values in **assets.**

I am trying to distinguish between Marxism, which siezes ALL for the state, and which suits political heroes to a T, and true economics, which should invest only social or land values in public enterprises.

Whether Georgean propaganda may take the credit or not, New York is collecting more of its vast economic rents than any other place in Christendom. And apparently it has 'taken over' about four out of twelve billions of this social estate and used it to establish social services and lessen tax burdens.

The attack on enemies of democracy and on Reds is always a farce, because such people do not wear labels, but more obviously because these weak gestures are not backed by any clear vision of democracy or that vague thing popularly called 'our way of life'.

Even more obviously is democracy in the dog-house, because the essence of red gospel is taught in our whole educational system; and finally because democracy is Jeffersonian, demanding no monopoly; and our most substantial half of all 'wealth'—the earth itself—is monopolized by our most 'respectable' elements.

So while we give lip service to democracy, in almost every department of our real life we crucify and debase it.

The two outstanding spectacles in this grim picture are the **College** and **Business.** Business, Capital, and Wealth or capitalism are synonymous of democracy, and therefore the victims of this attack by Unionist-Reds. They are also the financial backers of the colleges and universities—the source of these subversives.

UNEXPLODED BOMB

No. 3

(Continued from last week)

It is therefore necessary that you tell your Air Raid Warden immediately whenever you find any of these disruptions after an air raid. If the Bomb Reconnaissance Agent determines the crater or hole was caused by an unexploded bomb, follow his instructions, those of the Air Raid Warden and Auxiliary Police to the letter. If you don't, you endanger yourself and your family.

After a bombing a number of other articles strange to you may be found near your home. These may be pieces of shrapnel, unexploded anti-aircraft shells, unburned or partly burned incendiary bombs, auxiliary airplane gasoline tanks, air plane cannon shells, partly burned or unburned flares or parachute mine caps.

Don't let your collector's instinct get the best of you. Any one of them is potentially dangerous and may go off just at the moment you pick it up for a mantlepiece decoration. These may also be valuable information of the enemy for our armed forces. The rule for you to follow is (1) leave them alone, and (2) inform your Air Raid Warden about them with explicit directions as to location. Let him take care of the details of collection.

To reiterate, if after an air raid you find any evidence of the possible passage of an unexploded bomb, tell your Air Raid Warden. If you find other evidence of the air attack, strange shells etc., leave them alone and again, tell your Air Raid Warden.

If you follow these simple instructions you will be helping safeguard yourself and your family—and you will be helping to win the war.

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GOVERNMENT A BIG UTILITY

(Continued from page One)

For the informaiton of those who may be inclined to scoff at the idea that the collection of rent by government is as simple as the above paragraph indicates, they are reminded that competent constitutional lawyers who have been consulted in regard to the matter say there are no statutes preventing government from collecting for services rendered citizens any more than there are laws preventing individuals from collecting from those to whom they render service.

Since rent and taxes are wholly different in origin and purpose, it has not been considered necessary to investigate the myraid tax laws to learn how they are worded. Some, or all, may rquire governmental revenue shall be raised by taxation. Rent and taxes being commonly regarded as two names for the same thing—entail the same method of raising revenue—this may lend color to the idea that, even though rent were recognized as the only proper source of governmental revenue, it could not be resorted to as long as the laws dealing with governmental revenue required revenue to be raised by taxation.

Reason doesn't bear out this view of the matter. So far as the collection of rent is concerned, it should make no difference whether the laws direct that revenue be obtained by taxes or not. Even if that be so, it cannot, and should not, prevent government collecting what is owed to it for services rendered. Rent should be collected anyway, it being an obligation due for services rendered by government. The fact that laws require taxation to obtain public revenue has nothing to do with the question of government recovering payment—rent—in full for services rendered its citizens.

Efficient handling of government business demands that rent be collected, even though tax laws remain on the statute books and continue to be enforced.

Once people understand that rent is actually nothing more nor less than a businesslike payment for governmental services, the chances are that tax laws would fall into disuse, as have many laws which have become outmoded. In such circumstances, tax laws would probably be ignored, especially when the people became aware they were paying merely the market prices of such services as they individually wished to enjoy.

Taxation is an evil that impoverishes the people by confiscating their wealth. Rent is payment for governmental services and nothing else. Tax laws may be left on the statute books if the people are so foolish as not to rescind them; but in any event rent should be collected by government in payment of services it renders.

There are no laws preventing government from collecting for the services it renders, any more than there are laws preventing individuals from collecting for services they render. Since there are no laws preventing such action, it would seem the proper, the sensible and businesslike thing for government to proceed with the collection of rent in payment for its services. Why pass laws enabling government to do something laws do not now prevent it from doing?

Whether or not promoters of the amendment are agreed that rent arises as a result of government activity, they are in agreement that there is such a fund and that its existence is not due to individual activity. Since they are also agreed that government should collect this fund in full if free enterprise is to survive, would seem the part of wisdom to endeavor to gain the ends they seek with the least possible exertion. This certainly is not by means of an amendment to the federal constitution, the adoption of which requires the approval of 36 states. The line of least resistance is to agitate for the adpotion of businesslike principles in the conduct of government, including the collection of payment for services rendered. This is the short cut to the coveted goal.

—Cause and Effect, Chicago.

The Sun Work Shop

Good THOUGHT

Good WORD — Good DEED

MY GARDEN

By Mina B. Hoffman in Nature's Path

They say my cherished garden is dead—
But see the berries blushing red ;
And green plumed cedars tall and bold—
And iris blades like spears of gold!
Gray China pinks like trails of smoke
Hug every border like a cloak.
Tall onion tops in measured tread
March down this garden they call dead.
And down in a secluded spot
Small cabbage heads in secret plot
To prove the cynics who question whether—
That Gardens DO LIVE through winter weather!

—Nature's Path.

PRECIOUS METALS

The strains and stresses of war have cumulatively given the answer to that pointed if ancient wheeze: "What'll we use for money?" What Uncle Sam says is money, IS money. After ages of reverencing the gold that glisters, mankind astonishingly went off the gold standard, but business went on as usual on a dollar revalued at 59 cents. Some fiscal wizard has calculated that the mountainous war debt reduces the dollar's value another 19 cents, theoretically.

Now comes the new nickel, with much less nickel in it than of yore. Yet it will continue to buy five cents' worth of goods or services. Some 23,000,000 pounds of precious copper for munitions making has been saved by substitution of silver—and thus the government's seemingly silly silver-purchase program has been pratially vindicated by use of the shiny metal in the country's war plants.

The moral of it is that if everybody agrees that a certain article represents a certain value it will do so, even if's only clam shells.—The Boston Gloge, Oct. 10, '41, in MONEY. N. Y.

RICHER WITHOUT WORKING

By R. L. McKibbin

Twenty years ago there was a big orchard some miles north of Johannesburg, So. Africa. Every year the picking and packing of thousands of boxes of fruit gave employment to scores of people in the neighborhood. Employment was created, money circulated and everybody benefited, from the capitalist who owned and operated the orchard to the piccanins who spent their small earnings at some local country store.

Then the orchardist woke up. He decided to stop being a capitalist and to become a landlord. So he cut up his land into plots and sold these at a high price, several hundred pounds per acre. This was possible because the development of the city raised land values to that level. He had nothing to lose as landlord because one or two sales a year would bring as big a net profit as he could make with the orchard, and that without the worry and trouble he had when he was a capitalist. As an individual, he was better off being a landlord than a capitalist. But what of the community?

Well, today, there are only a few damaged and dying trees, with rapidly eroding soil, where once were well-tended soil and thousands of beautiful trees with luscious and health-giving fruit. Today, there are no jobs for pickers or packers, no market for maufaucturerers of fruit boxes, no work for transport drivers, no money for shopkeepers—nothing for the community except higher taxes to pay for providing the communal advantages that increase land values.

And we let such land values be taken by speculators!

—The Free People, Johannesburg, S. A.

"SICK AND TIRED

(Continued from page one)

doesn't like it. The people don't like it. If the authority had been defined, limited and specifically laid out when granted, then the bureaucrats would have had little or no leway for using their own interpretation to satisfy their own little wills—in accordance with some pet theory and reform.

If Congress would redeem itself and assert its own constitutional authority let it do two things—finally pass that Walter-Logan bill to curb the bureau assertions of authority and then refuse to issue another grant of power to any bureau whatsoever (or to any part of the administration) without saying definitely how that power shall be used in dealing with the people.

—Kansas City Star, 11-26-42.

LIGHTNESS OF COFFEE HINDERS SHIPMENT

WASHINGTON— We're getting down to one daily cup of coffee because coffee beans, light and bulky, take up too much space for their weight in shipping.

The average cargo vessel can carry only about 70,000 bags of coffee, 132 pounds to the bag. The rest of the cargo must be in heavier goods for ballast. Our imports of coffee from Central and South America from July, 1941, to July, 1942, required about 2000 cargo trips of freighters, according to the office of war information—and we haven't got all the freighters we had a year ago.

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